

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 9, 2004. Claims 1-19 remain pending in this application. Claim 20 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 8-11, 13, 15, 18, and 19 have been amended; no change in scope of these claims is either intended or believed to be effected by these changes. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are in independent form.

The title has been amended to make it more descriptive, as required in the Office Action.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-19 and the indication that Claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Cancellation of Claim 20 renders its rejection moot; Applicants do not concede the propriety of the rejection.

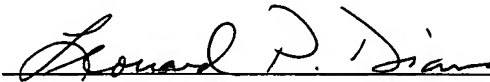
Applicants note that, attached to the Office Action, is a Form PTO-1449 from a totally unrelated application (Application No. 10/082,282).

Applicants did file an Information Disclosure Statement and a corresponding Form PTO-1449 on December 29, 2004, i.e. after the outstanding Office Action was mailed. Applicants of course respectfully request the Examiner to return an initialed copy of that Form PTO-1449, indicating the references cited thereon were considered.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims being allowed, Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Leonard P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants

Leonard P. Diana

Registration No.: 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200